

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. COLLUMS

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/AFN - MS. KING

-----140310Z 056936 /62

O 140124Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 136958

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 13

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 13,
1977:

Q. OVER THE WEEKEND MR. BEGIN IN ISRAEL SAID HE WOULD COME
TO THE UNITED STATES, OR EXPECTED TO, AT THE END OF JULY.

FIRST, IS THIS A KIND OF AGREED UPON TIME FOR HIM TO COME
HERE AND THEN WHAT DOES THIS DO TO THE SECRETARY'S
MIDDLE EAST TRIP?

A. I THINK THAT OUR POSITION REMAINS ROUGHLY THE SAME.
ONE, THAT WE DO, AFTER MR. BEGIN HAS FORMED HIS GOVERNMENT,
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WANT TO HAVE HIM VISIT HERE. THAT IS WHEN HE IS IN A
POSITION TO COME AS INDEED THE LEADER OF THAT COUNTRY.
THE TIME, THE POSSIBLE TIME, ISN'T SET YET AND I THINK
THIS IS PREMATURE FOR US TO TRY TO GIVE AN EXACT TIME.

I RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED
ON OUR HAND AND WHAT I SAW IN THE PAPER THAT MR. BEGIN HAD
SAID AND I AM SURE THAT THAT IS GOING TO BE THE SUBJECT
OF DISCUSSION.

NOW, I WOULD REALLY LIKE -- I MEAN NOT ONLY FOR YOUR SAKE,
BUT FOR MINE -- TO BE ABLE TO COME UP A LITTLE BETTER ON
THIS FOR EVERYBODY'S PLANNING PURPOSES, BUT WE AREN'T
IN A POSITION TO DO ANY BETTER.

Q. BUT, ISN'T IT TRUE THAT THE SECRETARY DOESN'T GO TO
THE MIDDLE EAST UNTIL MR. BEGIN MEETS WITH THE PRESIDENT?

A. IT IS CERTAINLY MY UNDERSTANDING THAT AS OF RIGHT
NOW THE CONVERSATION WITH MR. BEGIN WOULD PRECEDE ANOTHER
SECRETARIAL VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE MIDDLE EAST TRIP AND THE
CHINA TRIP MIGHT END UP ON THE SAME TRIP?

A. THAT IS A PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE QUESTION. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THAT IS NOT ENVISIONED RIGHT NOW. I MEAN THAT IT WOULD ALL BE TIED TOGETHER. ON THE OTHER HAND, I HESITATE TO SAY SOMETHING HERE THAT IS ABSOLUTE WHEN IT IS JUST SIMPLY NOT TIED TOGETHER -- I MEAN TIED DOWN.

Q. HOW ABOUT GENEVA AND THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. WELL, ON THE QUESTION OF GENEVA, THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES ON THIS REMAINS THE SAME; THAT WE WISH TO SEE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE RECONVENED.
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Q. NO. NO. I MEANT GENEVA-SALT.

A. I AM SORRY. YOU SAID "MIDDLE EAST."

Q. WILL HE MEET WITH GROMYKO AS PART OF THE MIDDLE EAST TRIP?

A. AGAIN, BERNIE, I HAVE NOTHING ON THE POSSIBLE COMBINATION OF EVENTS AT ALL.

Q. HODDING, DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO MR. QADHAFI'S SUGGESTION THAT THE EMBASSY BE UPGRADED?

A. YES, I DO. THE QUESTION HAS TO DO WITH MR. QADHAFI'S STATEMENTS ON THE DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BY EXCHANG-

ING AMBASSADORS. WE HAVE NOTED THE COLONEL'S SPEECH. IN LINE WITH OUR DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES, WE STAND READY TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO ANY POSITIVE STEPS BY THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT THAT COULD LEAD TO IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE UNITED STATES IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO A JUST AND LASTING PEACE FOR ALL IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. ALL WHAT?

A. AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS, WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ESTABLISHING A BASIS FOR COOPERATION TO THAT END; I.E., THE END BEING A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

SECONDLY, LIBYA'S SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IS AN OBSTACLE TO IMPROVED RELATIONS WHICH MUST BE OVERCOME. WE HAVE, INFORMATIONALLY, NOT BROKEN RELATIONS IN ANY CASE. WE ARE REPRESENTED IN BOTH PLACES AT THE CHARGE LEVEL, AND
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HAVE BEEN SINCE DECEMBER 1972.

Q. HODDING, YOU SAID AT THE BEGINNING, POSITIVE STEPS.
HAVE THERE BEEN ANY POSITIVE STEPS TAKEN BY LIBYA SINCE
THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MOVED IN? ARE YOU READY TO RESPOND
FAVORABLY TO ANY POSITIVE STEPS? HAVE THERE BEEN ANY
POSITIVE STEPS?

A. I DO NOT HAVE A RECORD OF ANY WHICH COME TO THESE TWO
QUESTIONS.

Q. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THAT PREPARED STATEMENT ABOUT A
JUST AND LASTING PEACE FOR ALL, ARE YOU MISSING SOME-
THING AFTER THE WORD "ALL?" ALL WHAT?

A. FOR ALL THE PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. ALL THE PARTIES OR ALL THE STATES?

A. WE WANT A JUST AND LASTING PEACE FOR EVERYONE IN THE
MIDDLE EAST.

Q. ARE YOU EXPECTING LIBYA TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY THAT THEY
WOULD NO LONGER EITHER WITH MONEY OR MORE SUPPORT TO ANY
GROUP INVOLVED IN TERRORISM IN THE AREA?

A. I REALLY DON'T THINK I WANT TO TRY TO DETAIL THE
POSSIBILITIES. WE HAVE BEEN FOR QUITE SOME TIME OPEN TO
DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING RELATIONS.

AND I THINK THAT WE HAVE BEEN FAIRLY CLEAR ON THE TWO
MAJOR ELEMENTS THAT ARE NECESSARY IN THAT.

Q. HAVE THERE BEEN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERN-
MENTS ABOUT THE CONDITIONS AND TERMS FOR IMPROVING
RELATIONS?
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A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON IT.

Q. A POINT OF INFORMATION. DID THE RELATIONSHIP GO FROM
THE LEVEL OF AMBASSADORS TO CHARGES IN DECEMBER OF 1972?

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANING.

Q. WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON THE LIBYAN
REQUEST FOR THE SENDING OF THOSE TRANSPORT PLANES WHICH
THEY CLAIM THEY HAVE PAID FOR?

A. YES. SO LONG AS THE LIBYAN AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS
HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED THE BASIS OF COOPERATION IN WORKING

TOWARD PEACE FOR ALL IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT IN THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ALLOW THESE MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO GO TO LIBYA.

Q. HAVE THEY ACTUALLY PAID FOR THOSE PLANES? WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE PROBLEM?

A. IN LATE 1973, THE LIBYANS APPLIED FOR EXPORT LICENSES FOR EIGHT C-130'S THAT LIBYA HAD PURCHASED FROM LOCKHEED. THE APPLICATIONS ARE UNDER REVIEW IN THE HOPES THAT OUR RELATIONS WOULD IMPROVE. AND THAT REMAINS THE SITUATION.

Q. HAVE THEY BEEN PAID FOR?

A. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THOSE PLANES HAVE BEEN PURCHASED.

Q. COULD YOU DEFINE A LITTLE BETTER WHAT YOU MEAN BY ESTABLISHING A BASIS FOR COOPERATION?

A. YES. THE BASIS FOR COOPERATION HAS TO DO WITH THE TWO ELEMENTS I JUST MENTIONED -- ONE OF THEM BEING THE UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTION OF LIBYA'S SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM; THE OTHER HAVING TO DO WITH AN AGREEMENT TO WORK TOWARD A MIDDLE EASTERN PEACE SETTLEMENT.

Q. I UNDERSTAND, BUT I MEAN THE SPECIFIC WAY. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE LIBYANS TO DO, APART FROM TERRORISM, IN TERMS OF SUPPORTING NEGOTIATIONS?

A. AGAIN, I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT I AM PREPARED TO SIT HERE AND TALK ABOUT WHAT WOULD PROPERLY BE DETERMINED AS WE ENTERED INTO DISCUSSIONS ON THESE TWO ELEMENTS. I THINK THEY PRETTY WELL SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. AS FAR AS THE APPROACH, THE EXACT DETAILS OF HOW WE NEGOTIATE THEM, I THINK I WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THAT FOR THE CONVERSATIONS.

Q. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING THEM INTO THE PEACE PROCESS WITH THE OTHER ARAB STATES?

A. WELL, AGAIN, THAT IS A HURDLE. FIRST, WE HAVE TO RESOLVE THIS QUESTION. CLEARLY WHAT WE WANT, I MEAN GENERALLY, IS A WILLINGNESS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THAT AREA TO PARTICIPATE FULLY AND HONESTLY IN AN EFFORT TO FIND A PEACE WHICH IS JUST FOR ALL THOSE IN THE AREA.

Q. I TAKE THAT AS A "YES".

A. WELL, I AM NOT GOING TO SAY YES TO THAT QUESTION. THE ANSWER IS PRECISELY WHAT I SAID.

Q. IF THEY DO ALL THESE THINGS, YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO PARTICIPATE?

A. YES. PRECISELY. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ALL THE PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WORKING TOWARD A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

Q. WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE IRAQ IN THAT PROCESS, TOO?
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A. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL THE PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST COMMITTED TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THAT SITUATION.

Q. WELL, THE ONLY TWO COUNTRIES WHO ARE NOT, AS YOU WOULD PUT IT, COOPERATING ARE IRAQ AND LIBYA.

A. I WOULD SAY THAT THE BASIS OF OUR POLICY IS TO TRY TO BRING EVERYONE INTO THE PROCESS, BY WHICH I MEAN BRING EVERYONE INTO A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IS THE GOAL.

Q. AMONG THE PARTIES, DO YOU INCLUDE THE PLO?

A. OUR POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF THE PLO IS CLEAR, AND I AM NOT GOING TO RESTATE IT HERE. WE HAVE GONE AROUND THIS ONE BEFORE.

Q. COULD YOU GIVE US ONE OR TWO, OR MORE, OF THE TERRORIST INCIDENTS WHICH LIBYA HAS SUPPORTED OR BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR?

A. WE HAVE DETAILED THESE BEFORE, AND THERE HAVE BEEN LISTS OF THESE MADE. I DON'T HAVE THEM FOR YOU HERE, I THINK YOU CAN FIND THEM, I THINK THEY ARE IN THE CLIPS, PRETTY EASILY. I THINK WE HAVE -- I EVEN BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE SOME COUNTRY REPORTS WHERE WE MADE THAT AVAILABLE. BUT IN ANY CASE, I DON'T HAVE THAT WITH ME.

Q. DIDN'T YOU SAY, THE SAME REPORT APPLIES TO THE NEW RELATIONS WITH IRAQ?

A. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT WITHOUT GOING DOWN THE WHOLE LIST OF PARTIES THERE, WHAT THE UNITED STATES CLEARLY WANTS IS TO HAVE A WILLINGNESS BY ALL THE PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO REACH A PEACEFUL, JUST SOLUTION OF THAT
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SITUATION.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO GET A LITTLE MORE CLEAR, IF YOU CAN,

EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO CONVEY ON THE LIBYAN MATTER. IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE CURRENT STATEMENT BY QADHAFI WHICH GIVES THE STATE DEPARTMENT ANY NEW INTEREST IN BELIEVING THAT HE IS SINCERELY MOVING IN THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES WANTS?

A. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS NOTHING NEW; THAT COLONEL QADHAFI HAS MADE SIMILAR INDICATIONS AND STATEMENTS IN THE PAST.

Q. BUT YOUR RESPONSE TO THEM IS DIFFERENT FROM IN THE PAST.

A. ACTUALLY, IT DOESN'T DEVIATE VERY MUCH. I WAS READING IN GREAT PART FROM SOME OLD GUIDANCES WHICH GO BACK --

Q. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU ARE GOING TO BE ENCOURAGED THAT HE ISN'T SUPPORTING MOSLEM MOVEMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES, OR FEEDING NORTH TERRORISM IN NORTHERN IRELAND -- UNLESS IN RESPONSE TO THAT PREVIOUS QUESTION A SIMPLE DISAVOWAL OF TERRORISM -- AND A BELIEF IN GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CAUSE YOU TO TURN YOUR POLICY AROUND.

A. I DON'T KNOW HOW I AM SUPPOSED TO ANSWER THAT.

Q. WELL, YOU CAN'T.

A. RIGHT.

Q. IF IT IS INDEED TRUE, AS SOME EUROPEANS HAVE ALLEGED IN PAST MONTHS, THAT CARLOS, CALLED THE NUMBER ONE TERRORIST, IS INDEED BEING SHELTERED IN LIBYA, WHERE HE IS LIVING ON A HIGH STYLE -- WOULD THAT THEN BE A HINDERANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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TOWARDS A RAPPROCHEMENT?

A. I SIMPLY -- I THINK WITHOUT DETAILING -- HE MAY OR MAY NOT BE OPERATING THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON TERRORISM -- IS ONE OF TWO SIMPLE FACTORS IN A TOTAL RESUMPTION OF FULL DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IF CARLOS IS IN LIBYA?

A. FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T HAVE THAT.

Q. YOU HAVE READ IT, I AM SURE, IN THE EUROPEAN --

A. YES, I HAVE NOTED THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

VANCE

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